

Remarks

Claims 1-4, and 6 are amended.

Claims 7-9 are new.

Claims 1-9 are pending.

Drawings

In the 4-5-06 Office Action, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "652" was been used to designate both parallel legs and straddle angle.

The specification has been amended such that the paragraph starting on page 8, line 1 refers to the straddle angle as reference character 654 instead of 652. Appropriate correction to figure 4 in a replacement drawing has been made.

Specification and Claim Objections

In the 4-5-06 Office Action, the specification and claims were objected to for informalities. These informalities have been corrected.

35 U.S.C. §112

In the 4-5-06 Office Action, claims 3, 4, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "thin" in claim 3, line 2 was objected to as being indefinite. Claims 3 and 4 are amended to correct this.

Claim 5 was rejected for being unclear on whether or not the mating

structure is positively being claimed. Claim 1 is amended, and the language has been appropriately corrected.

Claim 6 was rejected for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, specifically a straddle angle in line 4, and an orifice hole in line 9. The straddle angle is reference character 654 as seen in revised figure 4. The angle is also described on page 8, line 2. Applicants are open to suggestions for other language to use in the claim instead of "straddle angle."

The orifice hole is reference character 4 as seen in figure 4. As described in the specification on page 8, line 6, the mounting bar (reference character 3, i.e. frame that the panel attaches to) has an orifice hole that receives the laterally resilient protrusions (reference character 65 in figure 2).

The pulling force in claim 6 comes from the laterally resilient protrusions (65) trying to return to their natural state after being pushed through the hole (4). As seen in figure 4, the laterally resilient protrusions (65) are still compressed slightly and touch the back edge of the hole (4). The force exerted by the laterally resilient protrusions (65) on the hole (4) pulls the laterally resilient protrusions (65) farther into the mounting bar (3).

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the 4-5-06 Office Action, Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Licata (US 3,735,020).

Claim 1

Reference character 91 in Licata is a vertical, rectangular reinforcing rib on the backside of a panel. The orthogonal geometry of the ribs in Licata are not capable of "slidably holding a correspondingly shaped mating structure," as recited in claim 1. The correspondingly shaped mating structure would simply fall away. Claim 1 is amended to recite, in part, "T-shaped channels." Licata does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 1, including "T-shaped channels." Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 2

Reference characters 94 and 95 in Licata are arranged perpendicular to the contact face, whereas the positioning indicators (52) in amended claim 2 are arranged parallel to the contact face. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 3-4

Claims 3 and 4 further define the scope of independent claim 1. Since claim 1 is allowable over Licata, dependent claims 3 and 4 are also allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the 4-5-06 Office Action, Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmitt et al. (US 6,278,606).

Claim 1

Schmitt, like Licata, fails to disclose "T-shaped channels," as recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5

The fastener disclosed by Schmitt, reference character 34a, is an integral part to the panel and cannot be moved. The mating structure of claims 1 and 5 is slidable. Schmitt fails to disclose the “channels...slidably holding...said...mating structure,” as recited in claim 1. Thus Schmitt cannot anticipate claim 5. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

New claims

Claims 7-9 are new. The new claims include reference character numbers in parenthesis that correspond with the numbers indicated in the drawings and specification. No new matter has been added. Support for claims 7 and 8 can be found in the drawings and in the specification, pages 6-9. Support for claim 9 can be found in the paragraph starting on page 9, line 25.

Conclusion

Examination of the Application should now be able to proceed.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth M. Benderly', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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